



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of Falls Church Appoints New General Manager of Development Services**

Suzanne Cotellessa, a certified planner, zoning administrator and arborist, has been selected as the General Manager of the City of Falls Church Department of Development Services. Development Services includes the Planning, Zoning and Urban Forestry divisions. Ms. Cotellessa replaces Elizabeth Friel, who was a Falls Church General Manager for nine years before relocating in May 2008. Wendy Block Sanford, Principal Planner and Gary Fuller, Principal Planner, have shared duties as acting General Manager over the interim period.

Ms. Cotellessa has been Planning Division Chief for the City of Fairfax since 2007 and was Director of Community Development for the Town of Duck, N.C., from 2003-2007. She previously held positions in the City of Fairfax as Planning Division Chief, Zoning Administrator, and Planner.

"Ms. Cotellessa will bring very strong experience and abilities to the leadership of the City's Planning Department," said City Manager Wyatt Shields. "I look forward to working with her to implement a shared, community based vision for the future of Falls Church."

Ms. Cotellessa said, "I was drawn to Falls Church by the challenges and opportunities involved in weaving quality redevelopment projects into the historic fabric of the community, working with an active citizen base and a committed professional staff."

Ms. Cotellessa holds a Masters Degree in Urban Planning and a Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. She assumes the Falls Church position on Jan. 12.

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